Till the injurious Romans did extort This tribute from us[3], we were free: Caesars ambition,
(Which swell'd so much, that it did almost stretch The sides o' the world,) against all colour [4], here Did put the yoke upon us ; which to shake off,
Becomes a warlike people, whom we reckon Ourselves to be. We do say then to Csesar, Our ancestor was that Mulmutius, which Ordain [J]d our laws ;
(whose use the sword of Caesar Hath too much mangled; whose repair, and franchise,
Shall, by the power we hold, be our good deed, Though Rome be therefore angry;) Mulmutius made
our laws [5],
Who was the first of Britain, which did put His brows within a golden crown, and call'd Himself a king[6].

3 This tribute FROM us,] The unnecessary words—-from ns$_v$ only derange the metre, and are certainly an interpolation,
STEEVENS.

*—against all COLOUR,] Without any pretence of right.
JOHNSON.

So, in King Henry IV. Part I. :
" For, of no right, nor *colour* like to right—."
STEEVENS-

5 Mulmutius,] Here the old copy (in contempt of metre, and regardless of the preceding words—
«---------Mulmutius, which
" *Ordained our laws ;* ") most absurdly adds :
« ,-------made our laws .'*
I have not scrupled to drop these words ; nor can suppose our readers will discover that the omission of them has created the smallest chasm in our author's sense or measure. The length of the parenthetical words (which were not then considered as such, or enclosed, as at present, in a parenthesis,) was the source of this interpolation. Read the passage without them, and the whole is clear: Mulmutius,, which ordained our laws ; ^{ft} Mulmutius, who was the first of Britain," &c. STEEVENS.